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### “Ian Schneider”

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## "Ian Schneider"

*At the 9/11 Memorial*

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**ABSTRACT** A poetic emergence of the particular—a particular place, day, time, moment, event—and its (extra)ordinary affect. **KEYWORDS** Poetic inquiry; Affect; 9/11

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It would have been a day like today:  
the sun in a flawless sky searing light shards  
across silver-shone window-walls

While below—impatient, eager—you waited to cross  
Broadway's charged traffic

It would have been a day like today:  
the Lego®-yellow cranes lifting concrete blocks  
to feed open-mouthed pillars

While below you passed St. Paul's beneath the churchyard trees  
showing their first autumn leaves

It would have been a day like today:  
the tourists in clusters peering upwards in awe  
at the daring of human ambition

While below you collected your morning double espresso,  
and took the elevator to your office

It would have been a day like today:  
but today's flawless sky is empty, save for a single indifferent plane  
and the cranes steer upwards undisturbed

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While below we cluster where you fell, staring at endless water falling,  
and I trace the letters of your bronze-inscribed name

8 October 2015 ■

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